

SECRET

5476

Copy 7 of 7.

19 April 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Security Officer

THROUGH : Project Director of Administration

SUBJECT : Resurfacing of Runway at Watertown

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1. As you no doubt are aware, Mr. Eissell approved the project to resurface the runway at Watertown. During my trip out there the week of April 9, I discussed with [redacted] the matter of phasing the resurfacing so as not to interfere with the training program. It appears that it will be inadvisable to cease training operations for 10 days while the runway is being resurfaced and so the only solution seems to point towards having the work done while training (namely, take-offs and landings) is conducted on the lake bed. This can be worked out provided Security's approval is given to having the uncleared personnel working on the runway during U-2 operations from the lake bed.

2. During such operations the only reasonable approach would be to have any of the U-2's which are sitting around the hangars covered with tarps or hidden from complete view by gas tankers or some other types of equipment. The U-2 would have to be towed out onto the lake surface during which time it would be quite readily viewed by the workers. However, I doubt whether such workers would be technically inclined enough to gain much information as to the airplane's performance capabilities merely by seeing it being towed out. We could, of course, have some arrangement whereby the configuration of the airplane could be obscured by having a car follow the airplane or by draping canvas over the wings. Any way we attempt to do this we would allow for a reasonable degree of compromise; however, I would like for you to consider this problem and give me your thinking and recommendations on how we may conduct this joint operation.

3. If from a security standpoint you cannot go along with this dual type of operation, I am afraid we will have to withhold resurfacing the runway because we cannot afford to stop our training program especially when we have so few airplanes available and so many pilots to train.

[redacted]  
Deputy Project Director

- 25X1
- 1 - [redacted]
  - 2 - Adm.
  - 3 - [redacted]
  - 4 - JAG
  - 5 - Materiel
  - 6 - [redacted]
  - 7 - Chron.